

73⁵⁰
LEVEL
ONE

DECEMBER 30, 1958

THE MENNONITE

OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO
MAN LAY THAN THAT IS
LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST



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"Lo, I am with you alway"

1958 INDEX

editorials

LET'S KEEP CHRISTMAS! Let us not say "Christmas is past," but *keep* it in our hearts and lives every day of the year. To think of Christmas as only one day of the year and then pick up the gift wrappings and put away the decorations for another year, and go on living as if Christ were no longer here, is not the proper way to *keep* Christmas.

May we ever keep the *wonder* of it: the marvel that God should so care for us that He sent His Son to live with us that none might miss Him, but better understand what He is like. Let us keep the *peace* of Christmas by accepting the Prince of Peace as Lord of our life, not occasionally but constantly.

May we ever keep the *power* of Christmas—power available to the very lowliest of us, a power that holds and keeps us in God's will and plan. Let us keep the *love* of Christmas. This is the heart of the gospel as well as the heart of God, for God is Love.

May we ever keep the *joy* of Christmas. The original tidings of great joy for all people was not confined to that day nor merely to the season surrounding Christmas Day. It is a joy to be always with us and in us: the joy of restored souls and of fellowship with God. Christmas is far too great to keep only a few days in December, and then allow it to slip from us. We need to *keep* Christmas daily: the wonder of it, and the peace, power, love, and joy it was intended to bring to each of us. Let us *keep* Christmas.

TWO DOORS After a last, brief look at the year 1958 and our relation to it, may we go out the closing door gently and with a prayer. It has been a good year. New experiences have come to us unexpectedly, and problems and decisions that had to be met. There have also been new and unexpected joys which inspired us.

But we cannot relive this year, nor should we dwell unduly on its various experiences. Time marches on—and makes us march with it. The exit is before us; the door is about to be closed on this chapter of our life. First, may we humbly bow before the God of the Years in gratitude and praise for His wondrous leading—but also in repentance and penitence for our mistakes and sins. May we tarry briefly as He cleanses us from all unrighteousness, then pass through the exit humbly and thankfully.

As we close one door, immediately another door automatically opens before us: the door to the New Year. As we enter the way before us seems long and uncertain. Great problems, national and individual, will need to be faced and met. Unknown circumstances will press upon us. Who is equal to all the experiences of this untried way? No one in his own strength. But we need not go into the unknown alone: "Lo, I am with you."

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Photo by David Smucker

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of things to come

Jan. 4-11—Universal Week of Prayer
Jan. 18-Feb. 11—Christian Ministry Emphasis

Feb. 8—Race Relations Sunday

Feb. 11—Ash Wednesday; Lent begins

Feb. 13—Universal Day of Prayer

Feb. 22-Mar. 1—Brotherhood Week

March 8—Conference Sunday

Aug. 5-12—Ministers' and Church Workers' Retreat, Camp Friedenswald, Mich.

Aug. 12-20—General Conference, Bluffton, Ohio

THE MENNONITE

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VOLUME 73

NUMBER 50

Life and Death

THERE are really only two philosophies of life and death. Our philosophies of life and death must go together, for we can't truly grasp the full meaning of either without the other.

Let us first picture these two philosophies in musical terms. Both philosophies recognize that in life, as in music, there are two basic moods—major and minor. The major represents the positive, complete, satisfying mood. The minor represents the sad, plaintive, negative, incomplete — “So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.” Both philosophies recognize these two elements in life. The difference comes in the importance and finality assigned to each mood.

The one philosophy says: “Life is just a few bars of major music between two vast infinitudes of minor music.” But the other philosophy says: “No! the minor is the striving of the soul after the complete, and the very unsatisfied nature of it is the foregleam and promise of fulfillment, as the minor chord seeks to be resolved in the major.”

Thus St. Augustine addresses God in a moment when life is in the minor key and says: “Thou hast made us for Thyself, and we are restless until we find rest in Thee.” The unsatisfied longings of the soul are but the minor seeking resolution in the major; and death may be the minor mood through which the soul passes to find rest in God.

Thus Addison addresses Plato:

“It must be so—Plato, thou reasonest well!
Else whence this pleasing hope,
this fond desire,
This longing after immortality?

Or whence this secret dread,
and inward horror

Of falling into naught? Why
shrinks the soul

Back on herself, and startles at
destruction?

’Tis the divinity that stirs within us;

’Tis heaven itself that points out an hereafter,

And intimates eternity to man.”

Thus Wordsworth in his “Ode on the Intimation of Immortality” speaks in wistful tones, in the minor mood, of a lost glory, an unsatisfied feeling about life after first flush of childhood is replaced by maturity:

“The rainbow comes and goes
and lovely is the rose

And yet I know where’ere I go
that there hast past away

A glory from the earth.”

But at last comes the major mood:

“We will grieve not, rather find
strength in which remains
behind

In the primal sympathy, which
having been must ever be—

In the soothing thoughts that
spring out of human suffering

*In the faith that looks through
death.”*

Or let us picture these two philosophies in terms of light and dark-

ness. One philosophy says that life is a brief interlude of light between two vast oceans of darkness—and death is the extinguishing of that little light. Thus Macbeth, contemplating suicide, says: “Out, brief candle!”

But the other philosophy says that death is but an interlude between life and larger life. Thus David: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me. . . . Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

In the cemetery surrounding a church in Williamsburg, Virginia, there is a tombstone marking the grave of one John A. Barrows. It is made in the form of a sundial. Around the face of the sundial are carved the words: “The shadow fell for a moment upon the hour that marked his death, then passed on to leave his name and memory illuminated by the eternal sunshine.”

That is the other philosophy! . . . death the brief interlude between phases of the eternal sunshine!

Kathryn Gates, a missionary, lost her husband and had to leave her beloved work because of health conditions, but cheerfully gave her life to teach other missionaries to go to the field where she could no longer labor.

When she laid down all her earthly work, one who knew her well wrote to her family a letter, a portion of which was read at her memorial service. It said:

“Death is not extinguishing the light—it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come!”

by George S. Stoneback
pastor, Lorraine Avenue
Church, Wichita, Kansas

A Count Up In 1959

by Harold Buller*

TEN. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two. One. . . . One? Yes, one. But why not zero? Because it's harder to decide to press the button that gives ourselves to God completely than it would be to press an offered button that sends a rocket zooming off to the moon. In fact, it may be our business trying to press exciting moon rocket buttons that keep us from counting "zero" in our own lives before God.

Many a person's life is a count down process that ends at "one"

but never really gets down to business with the "zero" button.

Some people have set themselves a lifetime count down. "I've a lot of time left in my life. There's so much to do. The time will come when I'm ready to turn myself over to God completely."

But when that time comes the button is lost under the debris of the years. Then again, it may be that the wiring has become rusty and broken, and it is no longer possible to make contact. Or perhaps the time never comes. Sometimes time stops. It stops before we expect it to do so—right in the middle of one big, headlong rush. That's when eternity begins.

Other people set themselves a much shorter count down. They don't want to risk the dangers involved in longer ones. The zero hour is to come "when I'm through college. Or through high school. Right after the Junior—or Senior—banquet. After a few more dates. When I know whether I made the football squad. As soon as the editorship is settled. Or anytime when I've had a chance to think about this thing for at least ten minutes straight!"

It's not exactly funny how one can get right down next to "zero"—and then find a whopping assignment like that 2,500 word theme, an after-school job opportunity, or a more intimate friendship comes in and sidetracks the whole counting process. When one comes to again, one just doesn't feel ready to say, "Zero." And so it is necessary to start all over again.

Has it ever occurred to you that at least one trouble might be with the very idea of a count down? They are fine for moon rockets. But perhaps they were never intended for timing the beginning of

a complete dedication to God.

Wouldn't it make more sense to have a count up? In other words, *begin* with zero—like the new year does.

You remember what that midnight moment between the old and the new year feels like. Someone somewhere may be blowing horns and making a lot of noise. But deep down inside of you, you know that right now God is reaching down to press a "zero" button. And the next thing you know you hear the count of "one." Day one in 1959. The great God who set His counting mechanism of the universe into motion long ago keeps right on counting till He sees fit to press another "zero" button for the next year. There is no count down. It's a count up from the beginning.

One avoids a lot of pitfalls with the count up way. Once you make up your mind you really want a new beginning and you reach right down into the middle of everything and press the "zero" button of repentance for sin and dedication to God, you are on your way. God's Holy Spirit, our Friend from God, will be right there to guide you. Besides that, you'll stop losing precious flight time that is needed for you to accomplish the mission God has set for you. On top of everything else you will be living with real purpose.

Right now is the time to say, "Zero."

After you get going, don't forget or neglect to press the button of rededication when new challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities come along. You'll likely need those second and third stage engines to keep you going.

Keep the system in repair. And use it.

*Pastor, First Church, Beatrice, Neb.

Pax Services in Berlin

by Loren Lind*

A YEAR ago, in November 1957, there were only two Paxmen serving in Berlin. They worked in a 2,000-person refugee camp in the heart of the city to help supply the needs of refugees as employees of the Red Cross. Today there are eight Paxmen and a matron living and working in four parts of the city. Their jobs vary; some are in a construction gang, some in office jobs, but all in some type of refugee aid.

Two men and the unit matron work at the MCC refugee home. They maintain an atmosphere of "Gemuetlichkeit" (hominess) for some fifty refugee mothers and children. This is in striking contrast to conditions in the forty other refugee camps of Berlin.

One hour by bus to the north, still in the thirty-five mile-wide city, a man is stationed at a refugee center. There a wood barrack serves as a meeting place for refu-

gees from neighboring camps. They escape the monotony of camp life to enjoy creative programs sponsored by a team of four workers. The center is owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany.

A similar center is being built by Amish Mennonite Aid in another part of the city. Four Paxmen are there, plastering the building which will be completed by January 1. Here the AMA will conduct relief and spiritual aid.

Another Paxman works in the office of a 210-person camp. He helps with the registration of new refugees and the extensive office work involved in processing them.

The Paxmen meet every Wednesday night to talk over experiences of the week and study the Bible. Thus Pax-Berlin has developed into a new type of Pax unit: a unit scattered and varied in service, yet bound together by common faith and fellowship. The men know their task; they strengthen each other by working for a common goal.

*Paxman Loren Lind (Salem, Ore.) serves in Heim Dunant, a refugee community center in Berlin. He and three other workers are in charge of the center, which entertains an average of sixty refugees a day.

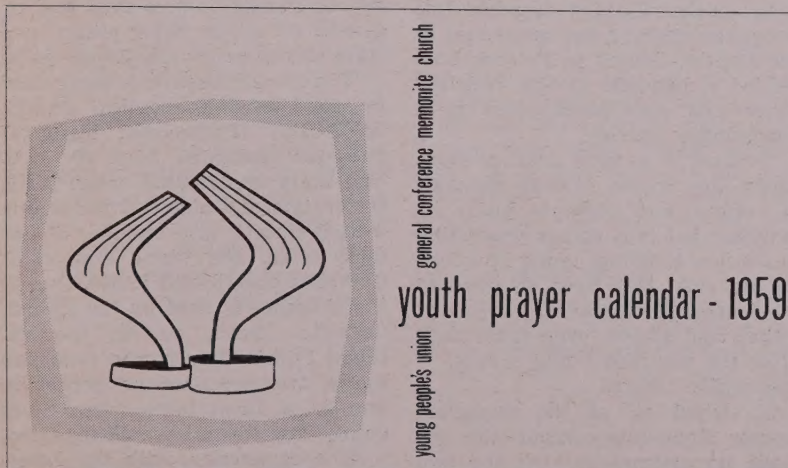
The situation of Berlin demands such service. Berlin is a world city, split through the middle by policemen on every street. Yet through this city stream 350 refugees every day. In September 1958 came 15,633 refugees. In three months (July-September) came 44, 812 refugees, enough for a good-sized city in itself.

These folk want a share in the glories of the West as they have seen them grandly displayed by western propaganda. Most of them seek financial independence. Some search political freedom. Some seek release from the atheistic pressures of the Eastern government. Many want only a good time; they roam the camps having their good time and living like animals. Some come not knowing rightly what they want; they search in this world, and this world cannot give it. And a very few come as humble Christians, forced to flee before Communist oppression; these seek fellowship.

Here these "men of peace" work, caring for the kingdom of God rather than the prestige of America. They see man as a soul, not a tool. Such a concept is a startling one. It carries life. It is vital at this meeting point of the two worlds.

New Prayer Calendar for the New Year

Now off the press is the Young People's Union prayer calendar for the coming year (see cover below). Themes are given for each week, with Scripture readings listed for each day of the year. Copies can be ordered from the Young People's Union, 722 Main Street, Newton, Kansas.



Some Go, Some Give

The Canadian Mennonite Youth Organization at its annual meeting last summer resolved to support two Paxmen to the extent of \$600 a year each. One Paxman, John Pauls of Morden, Man., is serving as a mechanic in India. John Heese, Rosthern, Sask., is scheduled to leave for the Belgian Congo to work as a printer.

The Northern District Young People's Fellowship is contributing \$450 annually to the support of Palmer Becker, Paxman in Formosa. Such a project undertaken by a district youth organization provides an excellent opportunity for young people to give several years to Christian service.

The MENNONITE YOUTH section is sponsored by the Young People's Union of the General Conference. Editor, Muriel Thiessen, 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana.

our schools

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

The Mennonite Biblical Seminary choir together with members of the Elkhart Mennonite Fellowship presented a Christmas oratorio by Camille Saint-Saens on Dec. 14 in the Church of the Brethren in Elkhart. Marvin J. Dirks directed the work, and Magdalen Friesen, seminary librarian, was the accompanist. Soloists were Delores and William Block, Delia and Gordon Dyck, Bruno Epp, Peter Fast, Martha Giesbrecht, William Kruger, Onale Stucky Neufeld, Joan Banman Wiebe, and Oskar Wedel.

FORENSICS ACTIVITIES

A Bethel College debate team, composed of Robert Rich and Robert Schellenberger, was undefeated in the Northeast Nebraska State Teacher's College Forensics Tournament, held at Wayne, Neb., Dec. 4-5. Robert Schellenberger also received a "superior" rating in extemporaneous speaking.

The Bethel College forensics squad members advanced into the elimination rounds in oratory, extemporaneous speaking and debate in the 29th Annual Invitational Debate Tournament at Southwestern College, Winfield. In debate, all three of Bethel College's debate

teams advanced into the elimination rounds. Robert Schellenberger advanced to the semifinals in extemporaneous speaking and Robert Rich in oratory. Charles Flowers advanced to the finals in oratory. Mrs. Virginia Edgett and Harley J. Stucky accompanied the group. Some forty-five colleges and universities participated in the tournament.

Dr. Ronald Rich addressed the chemistry seminar at the University of Kansas, Dec. 10, speaking on a new system of quantitative analysis. He had previously addressed the fall chemistry conference sponsored by the Kansas City section of the American Chemical Society.

QUARTETS TRAVEL

Two Bluffton College Gospel Team quartets are traveling during the Christmas vacation. Quartet members traveling west are Carolyn Blosser, Nancy Yoder, James Glenn, and Robert McCrory. Loreta Hilty serves as speaker, and advisor Paul Shelly is accompanying the group.

The quartet traveling east includes Miriam Mitchell, Jeanette Sprunger, Judith Hilty, and Sarah Kratz. Jane Herstine is the speaker, and Edna Ramseyer, faculty sponsor, is accompanying the girls.

BACH CANTATA GIVEN

In spite of 20 degree below weather, the annual Canadian Mennonite Bible College Christmas program was well attended. Bach's Christmas cantata *Unto Us a Child Is Born* was the highlight of the program. Abe Peters and Vernon Neufeld were soloists; Helen Martens was organist. A series of English and German carols made up the second part of the evening. Brother Adrian's short devotional message was based on "Appearance of the Grace of God."

MCC FILMSTRIP

"Not money, not relief materials, but people are the most important ingredient that MCC works with," said Harvey Taves in a talk at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, after showing a filmstrip on MCC around the world. Mr. Taves, who is the Canadian director for MCC, said that there are at present some 500 individuals helping to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and minister to the needy. The filmstrip *If You Have Love* has possibly served to stimulate some of the student body to think of MCC as a future field of service.

Frank Dyck, who spent five years teaching in Paraguay, was with us in two chapel periods. The second morning he showed slides of the work in Paraguay.

MCC news and notes

VISIT TO POLAND

EUROPE—In September, 1958, Peter J. Dyck, MCC director in Europe, went on a two-week trip to Poland. He reports:

"I left Berlin by train Sept. 9 and returned to Berlin Sept. 24. During the entire two weeks of travel I experienced complete freedom and encountered no difficulties whatsoever. I stayed in hotels and in private homes. Ten times I was privileged to preach in Baptist and other churches. Everywhere people were cordial and seemingly open. I photographed freely.

"The Baptists were especially gracious in their hospitality and helpfulness. Pastor Kircun, president of the Polish Christian Baptist Church, accompanied me to the south, and Pastor Odlyzko, treas-

urer, to the north of Poland. They did it as an act of courtesy and also because they wanted me to speak in their Baptist churches, this being the year of the centennial of the Baptist Church in Poland. I attended a baptism in the Weichsel River and also participated in a communion service.

"Poland is a very poor country. There are traces of war damage, of course, and there is much rebuilding, but it is rather depressing to see new buildings going up which do not even look new. In none of the homes, for instance, in which I visited and stayed, even those built after the war, did I find a sink.

Mennonite Church

"I visited all of the seventeen former Mennonite communities but made no attempt to visit the two

so-called Galician Mennonite churches in the southern part of Poland. Only one church, the one in the city of Danzig, is preserved and restored, all others being either in a state of neglect or completely gone.

"The Danzig Church is being used by the United Evangelical Church of Poland (Pentecostal leanings) and was dedicated June 29, 1958. The state contributed towards its restoration and placed it under protection since it is a building of historic value. The World Council of Churches contributed \$2,370. One of the churches is used by the Roman Catholic Church, one by the National Polish Church, one is a club house, two are used as granaries, one as a farm house, two are empty, and seven have disappeared.

"The cemeteries, with the excep-

tion of the one in Danzig which is completely removed, are overgrown with shrubs, weeds, and young trees. . . . In this jungle most of the monuments and stones are either toppled over, broken, or removed. I did not find a single Mennonite of the former Danzig-West Prussian community.

Relief Through Baptist Church

"There is a great deal of poverty in Poland, and the Baptists are not excluded from this. It would seem to me that in view of the fact that we cannot send bales and larger boxes of relief supplies to Poland and have them distributed from a central place, nor can we have an MCC representative there, the next best way to handle a relief program in Poland would be to send small packages to addresses made available to us by the Baptist headquarters in Warsaw. This program would assure the parcels getting to the most needy people and would have the added advantage of being received, because of interpretation, in the spirit in which it is sent. . . . A brief statement in Polish from the MCC, to be included in each package, can be prepared here."

MILLER VISITS TOURNATA

LIBERIA—On Dec. 6-7 Orle Miller visited the LeTourneau-sponsored Bafu Bay Mission in Tournata, Liberia. Five Paxmen set out for Liberia in the LeTourneau company boat "Lizzie Lorimer" on Dec. 5. Their work will be to strengthen and assist in mechanical maintenance, in the plantation program, in lumbering, and in the witness and church program.

Brother Miller reports that Liberia is one of Africa's most backward and needy areas as far as living standards, literacy, road, and school standards are concerned. Only five per cent are Christian, of which one-sixth are Roman Catholic. "Liberia's mission need grips me most," writes Brother Miller. "I am glad to see this field added to Pax, and believe the boys can make a good contribution. They will need our special prayer remembrance as they encounter this singular challenge."

A KNOTTY PROBLEM

HONG KONG—Norman Wingert reports the following incident: "A gangling lad came to our center with a pocket full of knots. The

knots were spaced lumps on a string, and in each knot was tied a piece of paper on which had been written the name of one of the nine members of his family. In a way, that string of knots was a fitting symbol of the knotted-up mess which life had dealt to this refugee family. The knots had been so placed on the string as to mark off the foot-length of each of the family. MCC had invited the father to come to get shoes for the family. But the father, as well as four of the children, was sick, and so he sent the oldest boy. With this string, fitting the family was no problem. All that was necessary was to match the shoe lengths to the distances between the knots on the string. In no time at all the lad was on his way home with a bag of shoes, and the knotty problem of providing shoes for a family of nine with a combined income of not over \$30 a month was solved."

jottings

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

FIRST CHURCH, PASO ROBLES, CALIF.: Our choir, under the direction of Pastor Alfred Schwartz, presented the Christmas cantata *The Story of Christmas According to the Scriptures* by Ellen Jane Lorentz, and the S. S. children also gave a Christmas program. It was our privilege to have a week of special meetings Nov. 9-14 with Albert Epp, pastor of the Downey Mennonite Church, as the speaker. A group of young people attended the Calif. Menn. S. S. and C. E. Rally Day Nov. 23 at the Downey Church. Visiting and serving during the past months were Andrew Shelly, Mrs. Alfred Habegger, Arthur Kaiser, Elizabeth Foth, and the Bernard Thiessen family. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Osman welcomed little Loritta Beth into their family circle Nov. 5, and little Mark Robert arrived Nov. 13 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Toevs. The annual congregational business meeting was held Dec. 11.—Mrs. Gus Toevs, corr.

W. C. VOTH'S SPEAK

CARLOCK CHURCH, CARLOCK, ILL.: The Inter-Mennonite Ministers and Wives Fellowship meeting was held at our church Oct. 20. Pastor and Mrs. W. C. Voth were our missionary speakers Oct. 26. The evening service was dismissed that we might attend the Reformation Day serv-

ice held at First Methodist Church, Normal, Ill. Robert Kreider of Bluffton College spoke on the Anabaptist contribution to the Reformation. The young people met at the Roy Miller home for a wiener roast and hay ride party. Harold Zehr of Roanoke, Ill. was guest speaker for a series of meetings Nov. 23-30. The annual Thanksgiving Fellowship dinner was held after the morning service Nov. 23. The Cradle Roll and Elementary Dept. of the S. S. are sponsoring a mitten and stocking tree as their Christmas project. Andrew Shelly was guest speaker Dec. 14. The Mennonite Hospital Choir gave a Christmas program at the evening service. The children's S. S. Christmas party was held Dec. 17, and the annual Christmas program and White Gift service Dec. 21.—Corr.

HOMECOMING DAY

SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, PLEASANT VALLEY, PA.: Homecoming Day services were enjoyed Sept. 21 with A. S. Rosenberger as speaker. A dedication service was held for our redecorated interior. Rally Day Services were held Sept. 28 with Ernest Leitzel of Richfield, Pa., as speaker. Harvest Home services were Oct. 12, with the produce going to the Home for the Aged at Frederick. A series of Bible lectures was given by Dr. Robert Fritsch Oct. 19-22. Lamont Woelk of Fairfield, Pa., was the exchange pastor on the Eastern Dist. Pulpit Exchange Sunday. The C. E. had charge of the Vesper program given at the Frederick Home Nov. 23. Betty Meyers was the leader; the topic: "How to Be Happy." The Thankoffering Service was held Nov. 23 with Robert Miller of MCC as speaker. The Family Fellowship supper was Nov. 29. Dr. Finn Jensen, instructor at Lehigh University, spoke on his travels in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.—Corr.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

SWISS CHURCH, ALSEN, N. D.: The annual Ministers' Conference was held at our church Nov. 4-6. The theme was "Church Discipline," and the main speaker was George Groening from Winnipeg, Man. His messages were entitled "The Disciplined Life" "The Disciplined Home" "The Disciplined Church" and "The Disciplined Minister." On Thurs. evening a panel discussion was given. Our annual church meeting was held Oct. 29. Mrs. Melvin Klein was hostess to our Mission Society Nov. 13. A love offering was taken for our missionary, Verena Jantz, and Christmas bundles were packed for the missionary

Harold Graber family. A group of men went to Lakewood Park, near Devil's Lake, to help with a building there under Pastor Pritchard.—Corr.

MISSIONARY FROM JAPAN SPEAKS

ROSTHERN UNITED CHURCH, ROSTHERN, SASK.: Oct. 24, the Ted Paulsons, missionaries with the World Mission for Children, from Japan, spoke in our church and showed slides. Communion was held Oct. 26; Pastor J. C. Schmidt chose for his English message "Those Nail-pierced Hands," and based the German message on "Christ, the Good Shepherd." Jake Mierau, Hague, was guest speaker at the evening services. After the service a farewell for Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Unger was given in the church basement. Pastor J. C. Schmidt spoke, also Henry M. Janzen. Oct. 19 Mr. and Mrs. John Giesbrecht celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in our church. Pastor Schmidt and P. Koop were the speakers, and a program followed. Nov. 2 Mr. and Mrs. John Hesse celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in our church. Brothers J. J. Thiessen and John Rempel of Saskatoon, and Brother H. T. Klassen of Eigenheim were guest speakers. The Welfare Society Ladies' Aid served meals on both occasions. The Bergtahl Ladies' Aid, Senior Mennonite Ladies' Aid, the Good Will Ladies' Aid, and the Willing Helpers' Aid all have had mission sales of fancy work and home cooking. The Welfare Society Ladies' Aid sponsored a program Nov. 26 with a filmstrip *The Prophet Amos*, special music, and an English message by Pastor Schmidt based on Amos 4:6-13. A film was shown: *This Way to Heaven*. Proceeds went for missions. The members of the Men's Brotherhood met in the church basement Nov. 18.—Mrs. John F. Goertzen, corr.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

TABOR CHURCH, NEWTON, KAN.: July 24 Mr. and Mrs. Curt Janzen celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Aug. 16 was the wedding of Arnold S. Goertzen and Agnes Schmidt. In the afternoon of Sept. 21, residents of the Bethesda Old People's Home were taken out riding. Sept. 13 was the wedding of Evalena Thiessen and Bob Androes. The Tabor Sewing Society had as one of their projects to put rugs on the church aisles and stage. Oct. 7 was the funeral of Mrs. Dan S. Goertzen. Oct. 26 we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of our church. In the morning services we had three messages: "I Will Build My

Church" by H. B. Schmidt; "The Challenge of the Church" by Ed. R. Stucky; and "The Church's Vision" by James H. Waltner. A fellowship dinner was served during the noon hour. In the afternoon the history of the Tabor Church was given by H. B. Schmidt, and a musical program was presented in the evening. The young people had as one of their projects to solicit for an organ in the church. It was installed and was dedicated Oct. 26. Mr. and Mrs. Alfador Frey celebrated their silver wedding anniversary Nov. 1, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Unruh celebrated their silver wedding anniversary Nov. 9, with open house for relatives and friends. Nov. 12 our church canned 1,680 pounds of meat for MCC relief. The Halstead Church presented a program here Nov. 24 On Thanksgiving Day we had afternoon services and a mission offering.—Corr.

CHURCH WORKDAY

FRIEDENSFELD CHURCH, TURPIN, OKLA.: When the Men's Fellowship met in Oct., Joe Becker from Pratt was the speaker. We have a mid-week Bible Study and Prayer service every Wed. evening. There are five classes. The adult class is studying the Book of Hebrews, with Pastor Levi Koehn as teacher. Oct. 29 we observed Communion, and in the evening Conference reports were given by Pastor and Mrs. Koehn, Mr. and Mrs. Franzie Loepp, and Johnnie Plett. The trustees of our church called a workday. The outside of the church was painted, the nursery room was painted, curtains were hung, and a rug was laid.—Mrs. Paul Ediger, corr.

MISSIONARY SERVICES

FIRST CHURCH, BEATRICE, NEB.: The first week in Nov. our church was invited to attend missionary services held in the Beatrice Church. Pastor and Mrs. S. T. Moyer, returned missionaries from India, were here for the series of meetings. One afternoon Mrs. Moyer spoke at the Ladies' Mission Meeting. Nov. 23 missionaries P. K. Dirksens of Oraibi, Ariz., were in our midst for the morning service. The Ladies' Mission Society had their annual business meeting, followed by the singing of Christmas carols and refreshments. The church choir and the Jr. S. S. Dept. prepared a program for the Christmas season. Let us give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the many blessings received in 1958 and look unto Him for guidance and direction as we approach another New Year.—Margaret Albrecht, corr.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

BETHESDA CHURCH, MARION, S. D.: Our pastor has started a catechism class since Oct. 5. The Lord has blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Beckman with a baby boy Oct. 10. The (Salem) South Church gave their C. E. program in our church Oct. 12. Eileen Deckert and James Ortman were married Oct. 17. The last week of Oct. the parsonage was painted by church members. Nov. 10-12 the State S. S. Convention was held in Pioneer Hall, Freeman. The Ladies' Mission program was held Nov. 23 with Henry Fast, pastor of the E. M. B. Church, as guest speaker. He told of his trip to Germany and showed pictures. Oct. 26 a service of prayer and thanksgiving was offered for the last payment on the church building. Thanksgiving Day the seventy-fifth anniversary of our congregation was observed with three services. Dr. George A. Lang, president of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S. D., was guest speaker. At noon a lunch was served consisting of food like the early pioneers used. That evening musical numbers were given by local churches, with Marvin Engbrecht, pastor of the Huron United Missionary Church, as speaker. Sharon Schmidt and Larry Tieszen were married Nov. 28. Nov. 30 we had a Thanksgiving Song Festival by junior choirs of the local and neighboring churches. Dec. 1 we had our annual church business meeting. Dec. 2 missionary Harold Ratzlaff of India spoke.—Corr.

into the beyond

JOHN J. REIMER of Hillsboro, Kansas, and member of the First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, was born November 8, 1882, and died September 5, 1958.

CORNELIUS J. BEIER, of Delft, Minnesota, and member of the Bethel Mennonite Church, Mountain Lake, Minnesota, was born September 1, 1881, and entered eternal rest December 2, 1958. Mr. Beier had been responsible for management of Mission Board land in that area.

J. J. C. KLASSEN, of Laird, Saskatchewan, and member of the Tiefengrund, Rosenort Church, was born February 14, 1896, and died November 28, 1958. He had served as deacon for the last fifteen years and also served in other capacities in church and conference work.

conference notes

FIFTIETH ISSUE

As is customary, no issue of *The Mennonite* appears during the weeks of July Fourth and Christmas, December 25.

SATISFACTORY RECOVERIES

The Board of Missions is grateful to God for the recovery from illness of several of its personnel. John Thiessen, executive secretary of the Board, is back in the office after a brief illness.

Mrs. Glen Habegger, missionary to migrant workers at Eloy, Ariz., is recuperating after submitting to major surgery in Casa Grande, Ariz.

In the Belgian Congo in Africa, Dr. Heydinger of Columbus, Ohio, was lecturing at various conferences, the last of which was held at the Presbyterian Headquarters at Lubondai (where the school for missionary children is located). Along with others of our missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. John Zook, medical missionaries from Charlesville, attended. While there, the suggestion was made by Dr. James Diller that Dr. Heydinger would be the ideal person to perform the operation Dr. Zook badly needed. In this providential way Dr. Zook was able to have the surgery done by a specialist and has made a fine recovery. The Zooks are from Portland, Ore.

MEXICO VS

"Mexico offers a real challenge to the VS'er," writes Margaret Warrentin of Grunthal, Man., who is just completing her second year of MCC Voluntary Service in Mexico. "It is not a place for the faint of heart nor for the materialist. . . . Work at the Government Regional Hospital in Cuauhtemoc is interesting and challenging. . . . But our nursing service here is only a means to an end, that of reaching the people with the gospel. Since we are forbidden to do evangelistic work in the hospital, we must witness with our lives and be alert to make use of opportunities to speak to people personally. We have to win their confidence by helping to relieve physical suffering, by showing love and sympathy before we can approach them about their spiritual life. This often seems a slow and

discouraging way of doing the Lord's work, but if we are faithful He will surely give us some fruit."

RECEIVED FOR CHURCH WORK

As of December 20, about \$790,000 has been received for missions, Christian service, education, publication, church extension, etc.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

The eighth annual meeting of the Association of Mennonite Hospitals and Homes will be Jan. 28-29 in St. Louis, Mo. Representatives from Conference homes and hospitals will meet for discussion of administrative problems and concerns as well as to explore ways in which to keep the church close to the work of welfare institutions. This meeting will be held in connection with the meeting of the American Protestant Hospital Association.

A career in welfare institutions is a worthy goal. The Board of Christian Service is offering a travel scholarship to persons interested in learning more about the church's welfare institutions; college students are welcome to apply. Such a scholarship would take care of round-trip coach fare to St. Louis. Write to Board of Christian Service, 722 Main, Newton, Kan.

FAITH AND LIFE RADIO

Radio speaker for Faith and Life, a fifteen-minute twice-daily Conference broadcast on station KJRG, Newton, Kan., for the week Dec. 29 to Jan. 3 is Howard G. Nyce, pastor of the Faith Mennonite Church, Newton.

STUDY CONFERENCE

"The Church and Its Witness in Society" is the topic for a study conference sponsored by the Board of Christian Service of the Canadian Conference of Mennonites to be held Jan. 9-11 at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, Winnipeg, Man. The conference will seek "to raise the horizons of our Mennonite concern, and provide a basis and a direction for witness and action." General topics are "Our Biblical Foundations" "The Church and Political Concerns" "The Church and Economic Concerns" "The Church and Social Concerns" and "The Church and a Program of Witness and Action."

NEW PASTOR

Bruno Penner of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, has assumed the pastorate of the First Mennonite Church, Glendive, Montana.

COMMITTEES MERGE

Analysis of various aspects of committee work by the Board of Christian Service at the annual Council of Boards resulted in the formation of a committee known as Peace and Social Concerns, merging two separate committees formerly working in these areas. Reorganization also formed a committee on Voluntary Service and 1-W. In recent years, rather than accept an earning position, 1-W men have increasingly been challenged to consider Voluntary Service, making vital the relationship between these two areas of service. In order to work more effectively in these areas, committees working separately were combined.

JAPAN CALENDAR

Available for distribution are 500 copies of a 1959 calendar prepared by the General Conference Mennonite Mission in Japan. Write to the Board of Missions, 722 Main, Newton, Kan.

VISAS RECEIVED

Visa to return to India has been granted Esther Wiebe of Aberdeen, Idaho. After a long period of waiting, Miss Wiebe is happy to prepare to return in January to missionary duties as nurse in the Jagdeeshpur, M. P., hospital.

A busy furlough will come to a close sometime in January also for the Bernard Thiessens of White-water, Kan., who return to Japan. Before resuming their duties in evangelism in Miyazaki City, they will spend some time in Kobe, taking a refresher course in language.

BECKERS IN FORMOSA

Word has been received that Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Becker of Freeman, S. D., arrived in Formosa safely Dec. 8. Mr. Becker is entering 1-W service under the Missions Pax program of the General Conference Mennonite Church, and Mrs. Becker is a short-term missionary with the General Conference Mennonite Mission of Taiwan.

YOUTH CENSUS

Since 1956 teen-agers have received periodical peace and service mailings which include pamphlets, folders, promotional materials, and letters. These mailings seek to present in an attractive way the challenge of Christian faith and life opportunities for service. The Board of Christian Service is presently con-

ducting a survey of sixteen-year-olds. Although the primary responsibility for peace education of young people in the congregations rests with the individual pastor, these mailings by the Board supplement the pastor's work by keeping young people informed and interested.

Pamphlets available on request in quantities under one hundred are "Are You Sure?" and "Shall I Go Noncombatant?" Churches or other groups wanting more than one hundred can obtain these at cost.

PAX PHOTO ALBUM

Pictures depicting the work of MCC Pax in Europe make up the interesting and informative book prepared by the European service unit. Copies are available at 25¢ from the Board of Christian Service, 722 Main, Newton, Kansas.

VS OPPORTUNITY

Mrs. J. E. Schmidt of North Newton, Kan., has joined the missionaries at Ashland, Mont., where she will assist Mrs. Laura Petter in caring for orphaned and delinquent Indian children in a home provided for this purpose. She serves under the Board of Christian Service. VS is not exclusively a young people's program and offers opportunity for all those interested.

WILLOW CREEK PASTORATE

J. R. Duerksen has accepted a call to serve the Willow Creek Church at Paso Robles, Calif., and will assume duties early in the new year. After his retirement from India mission work, Brother Duerksen served as associate pastor of the Bethesda congregation at Henderson, Neb., for two years.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The fourth quarter 1958 *Adult Bible Study Guide* writer is Vernon Neufeld, Morrisville, Pa. William Klassen, Elkhart, Ind., is writing the first quarter 1959. Writers of the *Youth Bible Study Guide* are Floyd G. Bartel, Topeka, Kan., fourth quarter 1958; and Elmer Neufeld, Chicago, Ill., first quarter 1959.

ETERNAL SECURITY

For a clear understanding of the implications of the position known as eternal security, read "Notes on Eternal Security," leaflet written by John Schrag, instructor in philosophy and psychology at Grace Bible Institute, and published by Faith and Life Press. Order for 10 cents a copy, 90 cents a dozen, and \$6.00 a hundred, from 720 Main Street, Newton, Kan.

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